

HÉLÈNE SCHMITZ

Born in 1960

Lives and works in Stockholm, Sweden



Through her photographs, Helene Schmitz studies how Mankind tries to become the “master and possessor of nature” in the words of Descartes. Far from the idyllic projections conveyed by a large part of Western literature, which bestows on nature an “innocent goodness”, tying it to the metaphor of Paradise lost, the photographer studies the violence and cruelty of the living, of the elements. She presents the power balance that plays out between Mankind and Nature.

Helene Schmitz documents different endeavours of domestication, classification or interaction. A majesty emanates from her images, where great beauty and terrifying perspectives coexist.

EDUCATION

2014

Urban Re-mix, Royal Institute of Art, Stockholm, Sweden

1997

Theory of Art at the Academy of Arts, Konstfack Stockholm, Sweden

1995

Summer Intensive Film Workshop, NYU, New York, USA

1983 - 1988

B.A in film and Art Theory, Stockholm University Stockholm, Sweden

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024

Galerie Maria Lund, Paris, France

2022

Oslo Negativ Photo Festival, Oslo, Norway

Falu Gruvmuseum, Falun, Sweden

Viborg Kunsthall, Viborg, Denmark

Sotheby's, Stockholm, Sweden

2021

House of Sweden, Washington DC, USA
Fotografiska, Tallinn, Estonia

2020

Konsthallen Meken, Smedjebacken, Sweden
Tomelilla Konsthall, Tomelilla, Sweden
Fotografiska New York, New York, USA

2019

Fotografisk Center Copenhagen, Denmark

2018

Prins Eugens Waldemarsudde, Stockholm, Sweden

2017

Skellefteå Konsthall, Skellefteå, Sweden

2016

Galerie Maria Lund, Paris, France
Fotografiska Stockholm, Sweden
WILLAS Contemporary Oslo, Norway
Pumphuset Landskrona, Sweden

2015

Turn Gallery, New York, USA
Dunkers kulturhusHelsingborg, Sweden

2013

Galerie Maria Lund Paris, France
Rättviks konsthall Rättvik, Sweden
Abecita Konstmuseum Borås, Sweden
Mariatorget subway station Stockholm, Sweden

2012

Kristinehamns Konstmuseum Kristinehamn, Sweden

2011

Galleri Kontrast Stockholm, Sweden
Fotografiska Stockholm, Sweden

2010

Galerie Maria Lund Paris, France
Transfotografia Gdansk, Poland

2008

The Naughton Gallery at Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland

2007

Galleri Leger Malmö, Sweden
Photo Fair Nacka Strand, Sweden
National Museum Prague, Czechia
Centre Culturel Suédois Paris, France
National Museum of Natural History Paris, France

National Museum of Natural History Stockholm, Sweden
National Science Museum Tokyo, Japan

2003

Galleri Konstnärshuset Stockholm, Sweden

2000

Galleri Leger Malmö, Sweden Bildhuset Stockholm, Sweden

1996

Galleri Leger Malmö, Sweden
Galerie Aronowitsch Stockholm, Sweden

1995

Åbo konservatorium Åbo, Finland

1993

Fotomässan Gothenburg, Sweden

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024

The Romantic Eye, Nationalmuseum, Stockholm, Sweden
In Bloom, Fotografiska, Tallinn, Estonia
Biennale Double Agent, Museum of Architecture and Design, Lubjana, Slovenia
Human / Nature Fotografiska, New York, USA

2023

Northern Photographic Center, Oulu, Finland
In Bloom, Fotografiska, Stockholm, Sweden

2022

Nordic Photography, Landskrona Photo Festival, Landskrona, Sweden
A Home, Thielska Galleriet, Stockholm, Sweden
Nordic Photography, Fotografisk Center, Copenhagen, Denmark

2021

Street Level Photoworks, Glasgow, Scotland
Coal + Ice festiva, Washington DC, USA

2019

7th Continent with Feral Atlas Collective, Istanbul Biennale, Istanbul, Turkey
Sjätte Sinnnet, Västerfärnebo, Sweden
A WAY AWAY, Etnografiska Museet, Stockholm, Sweden

2018

STHLM Forever, Fotografiska Stockholm, Sweden
A WAY AWAY, Landskrona museum, Landskrona, Sweden
Publicerat, Hasselblad, Center Gothenburg, Sweden
Turn Gallery, New York, USA

2017

Herbarium - fotografi og botanik Fotografiskt center, Copenhagen, Denmark

2016

Struktur, Avesta Art Avesta, Sweden
Noorderlicht Photofestival Heerenveen, The Netherlands
Korea International Art Fair (KIAF) Seoul, Korea

2015

QPN #19 CHAOS, Nantes, France
Le parfum dans tous les sens Palais Royal Paris, France
Art15 London, United Kingdom
L'arbre, le bois, la forêt, Centre d'art contemporain de Maymac, Maymac, France

2014

Art14 London, United Kingdom
Paysages intérieurs, Domaine Régional de Chaumont-sur-Loire Chaumont-sur-Loire, France

2013

Ljungbergmuséet Ljungby, Sweden

2012

Market Stockholm, Sweden
Boutographies Montpellier, France

2011

The Fence Berlin, Germany
Fotografiska Stockholm, Sweden
En annan historia - fotografi ur Moderna Museets samling, Museum of Modern Art Stockholm, Sweden
Arts and Nature, Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire Chaumont-sur-Loire, France

2010

Transphotographiques, Palais Rameau Lille, France
Supermarket Kulturhuset, Stockholm, Sweden

2007

The Naughton Gallery at Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland
Galleri LegerMalmö, Sweden
CFF Stockholm, Sweden

2005

Scandinavian Photography Falconer Gallery, Grinnell, USA

2004

SCHWeden, Felleshaus Berlin, Germany
Maison de la Culture Conches, France
Hallwylska Museet Stockholm, Sweden

1998

Edsvik Konst och Kultur Stockholm, Sweden
Insyn, Stockholm, Sweden

1996

Svenska Kulturinstitutet/Mois de la Photo Paris, France
Kalmar Konsthall Kalmar, Sweden

1991

Lika Med - 150th Anniversary of Photography, Museum of Modern Art Stockholm, Sweden

PUBLIC WORKS

2015

Stamps Produced for PostNord Swedish National Postal Service

2013 - 2015

Public art show Mariatorget subway station, Stockholm, Sweden

2010

Cultural Department of Stockholm County Council
The new Karolinska Hospital Stockholm, Sweden

COLLECTIONS

The Museum of Modern Art, Stockholm, Sweden
Municipality of Oslo, Norway
SEB Collection, Stockholm, Sweden
Bonnier Collection, Stockholm, Sweden
The National Public Art Council Stockholm, Sweden
Cultural Department of Stockholm County Council Stockholm, Sweden
Karolinska University Hospital Stockholm, Sweden
Art Council City of Copenhagen Copenhagen, Denmark
Västerås Konstmuseum Västerås, Sweden
Municipality of Falun, Sweden
Municipality of Rättvik, Sweden

PRIZES

2019

Winner, The Swedish Publishing Prize, *Thinking Like a Mountain*

2014

Finalist, Prix Photo Camera Clara *Kudzu Project*

2013

Nomination Swedish August Prize *Ur Regnskogans Skugga*

2012

Winner The Swedish Publishing Prize *Ur Regnskogens Skugga*

2008

Diploma Svensk Bokkonst Royal Swedish Library *System och Passion*

2007

Winner the Swedish Publishing Prize *System och Passion*

2003

Nomination Swedish August prize *Blow Up*

B O O K S

2022

1983 Skreid Publishing, Stockholm, Sweden

2018

Thinking Like a Mountain, Prins Eugens Waldemarsudde/ Max Ström, Stockholm, Sweden

2015

Borderlands, Art & Theory, Publishing, Stockholm, Sweden

2011

Ur regnskogens Skugga, Max Ström, Stockholm, Sweden

2008

Linné Le Rêve de l'ordre dans la Nature, Berlin, Paris

2007

A passion for Systems, Natur och Kultur Stockholm, Sweden

A passion for Systems (japona), Natur och Kultur Stockholm, Sweden

2003

Blow Up, Natur och Kultur, Stockholm, Sweden

1998

Mirages Exhibition catalogue Stockholm, Sweden

1996

Livingrooms Exhibition catalogue Stockholm, Sweden

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

2017

Filter #7 Photosynthetic Filter for fotografiCopenhagen Denmark
Les Magiciennes de la Terre Art ULMER Paris, France

2016

Plant: Exploring the Botanical World Phaidon, London, England
Matador, La Fábrica Madrid, Spain

2014

Strange Plants I, Zioxa Barcelona, Spain
Cabinet Magazine, New York, USA

2013

BLINK Magazine, Blink, South Korea

2010

National Geographic Magazine, Washington, USA

2009

Aux Origines de la Sexualité, Pierre-Henri Gouyon, Fayard, Paris, France

2007

National Geographic Magazine, Washington, USA